

FOCUS ON

Fort Lauderdale

August/
September
2002

A
community
newsletter
published
by the
City
of
Fort
Lauderdale



Also In This Issue...

**Details on FY 2002-2003 Budget Proposed,
City Treasures To Explore, Community Offerings and More**





Mayor's Message

Jim Naugle

City Commission

Vice Mayor
Cindi Hutchinson, District IV

Commissioner
Gloria F. Katz, District I

Commissioner
Tim Smith, District II

Commissioner
Carlton B. Moore, District III

Building Partnerships With Strong Neighborhoods

As a Fort Lauderdale citizen I appreciate the care, kindness and hospitality Fort Lauderdale residents have for their neighbors and neighborhoods.

On a welcoming note, the City of Fort Lauderdale would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the residents of Melrose Park and the Riverland area who will officially join the Fort Lauderdale family on September 15.

Melrose Park, with more than 6,500 citizens, is bounded by Broward Boulevard on the north, State Road 7 to the west, S.W. 31st Avenue on the east and Davie Road to the south.

Riverland S/W area - an area of neighborhoods bounded by Interstate 95 to the east, State Road 7 to the west, Davie Road to the north and the New River to the south - has a population of about 5,500.

Strong neighborhoods are the backbone of a strong nation. This country was founded on town hall meetings where groups of citizens met to exchange ideas and make plans for their communities.

I believe in order to meet the needs of today's communities, we must strengthen the partnerships among government, neighborhoods, businesses, social service agencies and education. With these partnerships we must continue to search for ways to preserve and improve our neighborhoods as clean safe places to live, work and play.

A few years ago, our City was designated "The Best Big City In America to Live." This designation still rings true today thanks to the dedicated members of our community. Neighborhood associations are one of the most valuable assets of our City. The combination of citizen participation partnering with government

and other service providers directly contributes to the quality of life in our city.

In a continued endeavor to help guide, strengthen and unify neighborhoods, representatives from the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations led the effort to work with City officials in developing a policy for a voluntary Neighborhood Registration Program.

This neighborhood-based initiative is an opportunity for neighborhood associations to be identified by boundaries, provide contact information, and ultimately promote enhanced communications among each other as well as city staff.

In the next few weeks, the Office of Comprehensive Planning will prepare the necessary forms for neighborhoods to begin the process of providing information. For additional information on this program, I urge neighborhood organizations to call (954) 828-8960.

Community Gears Up To Pay Tribute To Fire-Rescue & Police



Don't miss Police and Fire-Rescue Appreciation Day 2002 on Saturday, September 14 at Holiday Park from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This free community-driven event will feature a variety of activities for the entire family. Highlights of the day include Fire-Rescue Department demonstration of the Jaws of Life, the Hazardous Materials Unit and children's fire safety house tours. See the Police K-9 unit in action and gang unit dis-

plays, while taking advantage of the free bicycle registration and fingerprint/DNA kits for your children. Visit the Florida Highway Patrol's rollover simulator and riot control vehicle. Learn about the D.A.R.E. Unit. Children will enjoy the fun filled road jam & play station van sponsored by Coca-Cola, and the community sponsored hands-on arts and crafts area. There are plenty of opportunities to win fabulous door prizes including weekend getaways, a blimp ride and \$500 in cash. Don't miss the "Goofy

Games" competition between the Fort Lauderdale Police and Fire-Rescue Departments. Get a first hand look at the Police S.W.A.T and Fire-Rescue Departments in action during a thrilling finale. A concert, sponsored by KISS Country, featuring "4 Real" and "Buck Wild" will complete the afternoon. Show that special firefighter and police officer your appreciation by presenting a plaque during a special awards ceremony in the works. For more information, contact Cindy Smith at (954) 728-9290.

Visit Fort Lauderdale Online at www.ci.fort-lauderdale.fl.us

City Manager's Message



Floyd T. Johnson

Maintaining Tax Rate, Meeting Service Needs

The proposed FY 2002-2003 budget provides the resources necessary to meet the needs of Fort Lauderdale's residents, businesses and visitors despite the challenges imposed by the September 11th events and aftermath.

Despite a challenging economy, the proposed budget was thoughtfully prepared to keep the tax bill for the average homeowner level, and maintain the progress toward long-term goals established by the City Commission. This budget responsibly addresses the provision of essential services at a reasonable cost, provides for the continuing implementation of priorities identified by our citizens and the City Commission, and moves us steadily toward our vision of 2011, the City's 100th birthday.

The proposed combined millage rate for both operations and debt service purposes is 5.2723, which is the lowest rate

in 12 years! The all funds budget as proposed is \$349 million or 1.5 percent more than the current year's adopted budget. The General Fund proposed budget is \$207 million or 8 percent higher than the current budget. The budget reflects the commitments made by the City Commission to proceed with major capital improvements for water and sewer, the Northwest Progresso Flagler Heights financing plan, the enhanced general capital improvements plan, and annexation of unincorporated areas.

This proposed budget also includes increased resources for development of a domestic preparedness and emergency management function funded by a Federal grant, maintenance of an expanded Riverwalk linear park as well as open space acquired through the Broward County land conservation bond program. These proposals also include the resources to provide the

new residents from Melrose Park and the Southwest/Lauderdale Isles/Riverland areas the same excellent level of services delivered to our long-time residents without diminishing services elsewhere.

Citizen participation is a key element in a successful budget process. I invite all citizens to review this budget and encourage you to provide feedback through attendance and comment at the public hearings. The public hearings for the proposed budget will be held at the scheduled City Commission meetings of September 4 and 17 at 6 p.m.

The proposed budget can be viewed on the City's website (www.ci.fort-lauderdale.fl.us). Copies are also available for review at any of the Broward County Library branches. Specific questions may be directed to the City of Fort Lauderdale Research and Budget Division at (954) 828-5425.

Fall Guide To Recreation Programming Available In September



Don't miss the fall line-up of holiday activities.

From arts to athletics, camps to concerts, and classes to after school offerings, the City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department has a wide range of fall offerings scheduled through December 31st.

Hundreds of activities, programs and classes are held throughout the City's parks and community centers and they are all listed in the *More Out Of Life* program guide. New copies will be available beginning in September. In order to receive one in the mail, you must be on the *More Out Of Life* mailing list.

Call (954) 828-6686 to have a free copy of the fall *More Out Of Life* mailed to the address of your choice.



The fall guide features hundreds of programs for all ages at more than 80 facilities..

Visit Fort Lauderdale Online at www.ci.fort-lauderdale.fl.us

Mark Your Calendars For These Meetings



Budget Hearing Dates

Two public hearings for the proposed FY 2002/2003 budget will be held at City Hall, 100 N. Andrews Ave., on the following dates:

First Budget Hearing -

Wednesday, September 4, 2002 - 6 p.m.

Second Budget Hearing -

Tuesday, September 17, 2002 - 6 p.m.

Both hearings will take place during the regularly scheduled 6 p.m. City Commission meetings.

Other Schedule Changes

The following City Commission schedule change was made to accommodate the Labor Day holiday. Commission meetings for September will take place as follows:

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

1:30 p.m. Conference Meeting (held in the 8th floor Conference Room.)

6 p.m. Regular Meeting (held in the 1st floor Commission Chambers)

Tuesday, September 17, 2002

1:30 p.m. Conference Meeting (held in the 8th floor Conference Room.)

6 p.m. Regular Meeting (held in the 1st floor Commission Chambers)

Redistricting Maps To Be Presented

The final version(s) of the redistricting maps will be presented to the City Commission for review, comment and/or approval at two public hearings in September. Both public hearings will take place during a regularly scheduled City Commission meeting on the following dates:



First Public Hearing -

Wednesday, September 4, 2002 - 6 p.m.

Second Public Hearing -

Tuesday, September 17, 2002 - 6 p.m.

It is expected that the final redistricting ordinance will be adopted following the second public hearing.

For more information, call (954) 828-4758 or (954) 828-8969; or visit the City's website (www.ci.fort-lauderdale.fl.us).

Business Matters

The City of Fort Lauderdale, in partnership with the Florida Atlantic University Small Business Development Center (SBDC), provides free one-on-one consultation services and training seminars. The services are open to all small business located in the City. Consulting services are held at 101 N.E. 3rd Ave., in Suite 300 and may be obtained by calling (954) 828-4535. Monthly seminars are also held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the 8th floor conference room of City Hall, 100 N. Andrews Ave. The following topics are scheduled:

Starting A Small Business and Business Planning, is set for August 27 and will provide basic information on choosing a business structure, licensing, regulations, permits, employment issues, taxation, bookkeeping, business planning and more.

Searching the Internet and Government Websites for Business Opportunities, set for September 24, will identify ways to register with government agencies to foster a business relationship, understanding the solicitation and or bidding process and more.

For additional information, please call (954) 828-4505.

Neighborhood Capital Improvement Program Funds Available Increased

Have a neighborhood project in mind that seems too expensive for your association to tackle? Then let the City of Fort Lauderdale Neighborhood Capital



Improvement Program (NCIP) help.

This year, neighborhood associations

within the City boundaries may apply for up to \$35 of matching for a variety of neighborhood capital improvement proj-

ects. In order to qualify, neighborhood or homeowner's associations must apply. Applications for the 2002/2003 NCIP will be made available beginning August

19. Applications will be accepted September 1, 2002 through November 30, 2002 at 5 p.m. Two pre-application workshops are planned for September 11 and 12, 6 p.m.

to 8:30 p.m. at the Beach Community Center, 3351 NE 33rd Street. Two technical assistance workshops will also be



held, September 18 and 25, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Beach Community Center. The technical assistance workshop will provide applicants with an opportunity to

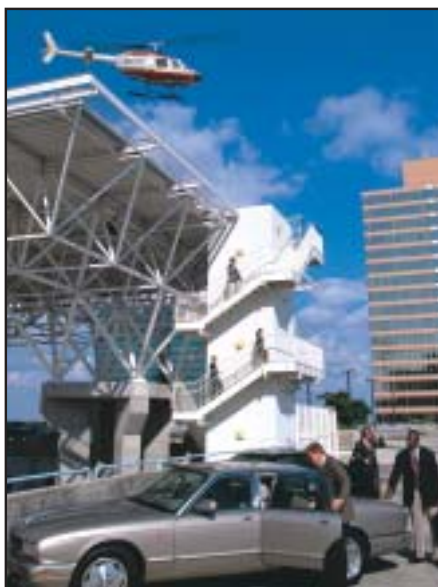
discuss specific project details and questions

For more information on NCIP, contact **Marisol Lotito**, NCIP Program Manager in the Community Planning Division, at (954) 828-8954 or via email (MarisolL@ci.fort-lauderdale.fl.us).

Downtown Helistop Unveiled

The grand opening of the Fort Lauderdale Downtown Helistop on the top level of the City Park Garage, 201 S.E. 2 Ave., opened the skies to new possibilities.

An array of amenities highlight the new Downtown Helistop. A fully furnished lobby located one floor below the elevated platform provides travelers with a comfortable area to converse, conduct short business meetings and relax. The facility also includes a meeting room and pilot lounge, along with plenty of parking and convenient access to ground transportation. Fort Lauderdale's Downtown Helistop features a landing area and one helicopter parking position on an elevated platform that encompasses 14,500 square-feet. The facility is designed to accommodate intermediate category general aviation helicopters with a maximum takeoff weight of 11,900 pounds. The Downtown Helistop will be operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The lobby area is open Monday - Friday, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and is available at other times with advance reservations.



The new Downtown Helistop is located on the top level of the City Park Garage, 201 S.E. 2 Ave.



Show Civic Pride - Become A Pollworker, Says Elections Supervisor

Miriam M. Oliphant, Supervisor of Elections, strongly urges each registered voter of Broward County to consider serving as a pollworker in the September 10th and November 5th elections.

On election days in Broward County, more than 3,500 workers staffing 618 precincts are on hand to assist citizens with voting. Pollworkers are provided with training and a salary ranging from \$100 to \$135 per election. All you have to do is complete an application. Once processed by the agency, applicants will be contacted to attend an orientation session and undergo training.

Citizens interested in serving as pollworkers should contact Miriam M. Oliphant, Supervisor of Elections for Broward County. To receive an application, please call (954) 459-9911.

Be Water Wise During Current Rainy Season

Using water wisely makes sense.

Now that the rainy season has returned, water conservation is the most important action we can take to sustain our water supplies, meet future needs, and reduce demands on Florida's fragile water-dependent ecosystems such as lakes, streams and the Everglades.

The City of Fort Lauderdale urges citizens to take a moment and do their part in conserving water by simply sprinkling their lawn sensibly. Lawns only need watering every two to three days in the summer. A heavy rain eliminates the need for watering for up to a week, conserving a considerable amount of water. If it rains one-half inch, residents can skip one day of lawn watering; if it rains one inch, skip a week; and if it rains more than one inch, skip more than week.

Water conservation and Xeriscaping tips can be found on the web at www.ci.fort-lauderdale.fl.us/public_services.

Public Input Sought For Education

The City of Fort Lauderdale and members of its Education Advisory Board are looking for citizens who want to make a difference in education locally.

There are many ways to become involved and only limited by the extent of interest, available time and energy. Under the guidance of the National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education and Families, the City of Fort Lauderdale was one of only six cities throughout the nation to participate in the Municipal Leadership In Education program. The 30-month program is designed to help city leaders develop action plans to improve the quality of elementary and secondary education.

Through the Municipal Leadership In Education Project, the City of Fort Lauderdale and the Education Advisory Board will recruit individuals representative of the City's diversity and many community-based organizations to participate in an education visioning process. Approximately, 20 to 30 study circles, comprised of 10 to 15 individuals each, will meet over a six- to eight- week period to develop an action plan for school improvements on all levels.

Individuals can also become facilitators to lead the small group visioning activities. Free training will be provided and is scheduled to take place in the fall. There is also room for individuals to work with the Project Team and Education Advisory Board to help coordinate the project. All ideas are welcome.

This is a cooperative effort with Broward County Public Schools, said **Lu Deaner**, Co-Chairperson of the Education Advisory Board for the City of Fort Lauderdale. It is our intention to promote a long-term partnership between professional educators and the public to achieve success for all of our students.

To get involved in Municipal Leadership In Education Project, contact Leslie G. Carhart, Project Liaison by phone at (954) 828-8962 or via email at LeslieC@ci.fort-lauderdale.fl.us.

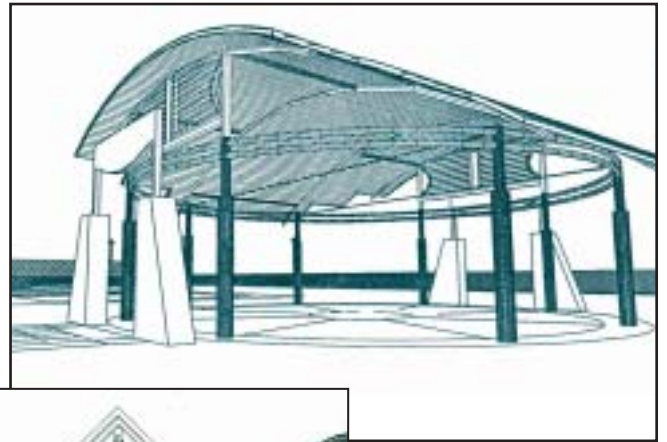
Progress Continues In Our Parks

New Palm Aire Park To Emerge With Unique Amenities and Architecture

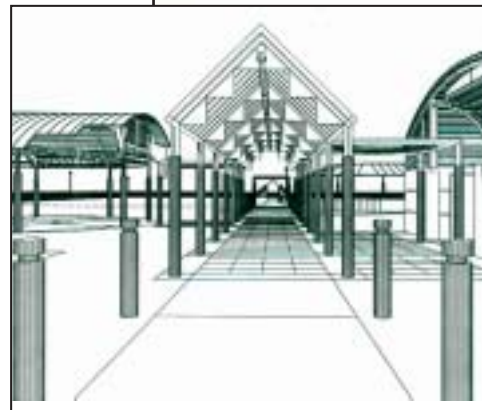
Located in the northwest corridor of the City sit five acres of land that will be transformed into a state-of-the-art park with a nature preserve .

Construction at Palm Aire Park, located on N.W. 21st Ave and Cypress Creek Road, is currently underway as a result of an extensive community involvement process and donated architectural services by Jerry Clawson Architect. This site, consisting of a native sand pine plant community, offered a unique asset during the planning stages of the park. As a result, the community and architect designed the amenities around the endangered vegetation to preserve the vegetation and provide a wooded theme.

Imagine promenading on a mulched nature trail that tours a shaded path along majestic native species including live oak trees, gumbo limbo trees, palmetto and native grasses. The park will also include a hard surface walking/jogging path around the perimeter of the park. Amenities include a large multipurpose field, two basketball courts complete with lighting, a racquetball court, plenty of benches and picnic tables. Also unique to this park are the covered entryways and the large circular pavilion, featuring unique steel design. Construction is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year.



Shown above is a rendering of the unique steel covered pavilion.



Shown at left is a rendering of the covered entry way into the park.

Croissant Park Offers Adults Fun Place To Go With Kids

The unveiling of the Croissant Park new aquatic playground amenities were met with great enthusiasm. After community leaders cut the ribbon signaling the grand opening, it wasn't long before residents jumped in for a day of water fun and sun.

Croissant Park, located at 245 W. Park Drive, just east of Croissant Park Elementary School off Southwest Fourth Avenue, features a 5,000 square foot community center, a 2,300 square foot water playground and a six lane lap pool.

The community center features a mini-gym with a non-regulation size basketball court and a large movable partition that can separate the mini-gym into two rooms for recreation programming. The center also includes a pool operator's office for lifeguards, a kitchen with a pass through window into a multi-purpose rooms, an office, storage space, and handicap accessible bathroom facilities.



The water playground features three water slides, a tire swing, water cannons and multiple water spraying devices. Recreation swim in the water playground is available Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The 75-foot-long lap pool offers visitors six lanes for recreation swimming and Learn to Swim programs. Recreation swim in the lap pool will be available every day from 1 to 4 p.m.



Admission is free to all amenities. A variety of water fun and fitness classes are being offered including water aerobics, Ai-Chi, water aerobics for people with Arthritis, lap swim and Learn to Swim classes for all ages and abilities. There is a small fee for classes. For more information about these and other activities, please call the Croissant Park Recreation Center at (954) 468-1487.

The construction of the Croissant Park Community Center, Pool and Water Playground is part of the City's Parks Bond Program, a \$35 million initiative which City residents passed in November 1996 to expand, upgrade and improve the City's parks system.



Find The Right Tree For The Right Place

The City of Fort Lauderdale works with property owners to ensure that trees are properly and safely pruned around utility lines. Currently, a Citizen Advisory Panel meets once a month to discuss ways to avoid the unsightly pruning of trees to prevent power outages and hazardous conditions to neighborhoods and trees.

Tree planting is much more than going to a nursery, purchasing the tree and digging a hole to plant it in, said **Gene Dempsey**, City of Fort Lauderdale Urban Forester. We are fortunate in Fort Lauderdale to have such a wide variety of trees from which to select that can meet every property owner's needs and tastes.

Here are a few questions Dempsey recommends to ask when determining which tree is right for you and your environment.

1. What is the purpose of the tree? Is it to beautify, shade, or screen the environment? Dempsey recommends the following two internet sites when surfing for information: *680 Tree Fact Sheets* (<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/trees/>); *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants* (<http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu>)

2. What is the planting site like? How much space is available - both above and below ground? Trees need room to develop roots and develop a canopy. Are there overhead utility lines?

Free Pruning Guides Available

In partnership with Broward County Department of Planning and Environmental Protection, the City of Fort Lauderdale is distributing the *Broward Urban Forest Initiative Tree Show* CD-ROM and a video - *Guide to Healthy Trees: Proper Tree Pruning* free to homeowner and civic associations.

The Windows compatible CD-ROM provides information on the tree canopy, planting the right tree in the right place, and how to prune trees.

The 21-minute VHS videotape offers basic information on proper tree pruning that every property owner should know. Contact Dempsey for a free copy at (954) 828-5785, or by email GeneD@ci.fort-lauderdale.fl.us.



A Great Deal In Hand

For more than 700 members, belonging to the Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club is the deal of a lifetime.

On any given day, the 7,000 square foot club space is the site where players of all ages and levels meet for a few hours of bridge playing, camaraderie, community activism and even a small hot or cold meal. Whether you are 9 or 90, this club provides something for everyone.

Recently, the club became one of the first recipients of the Jane Johnson Club of the Year Award due to its popularity, fundraising achievements and generosity in the community. The award was established to honor a dedicated manager and friend of the league that boasts more 150,000 members worldwide.

"This is a top honor from the American Contract Bridge League," said **Mary Short**, club president. "More importantly, it represents the care and concern that we have for our members and the community we live in. We actively participate in the life of the City through fund raising for local charities, joining in events of local and national scope."

Fundraising projects for 2001 included a \$2000 donation plus 50 turkeys and a clothes drive for Women in Distress, four large cartons of new toys for Toys for Tots, a \$3,500 donation for Children in Distress, a \$2,850 donation for the September 11th Firemen and Policemen Relief, and \$1,500 in canned goods for the Fort Lauderdale Food Bank. In addition, club members collected enough aluminum soda can tabs to purchase a new motorized wheelchair for a Canadian child.

The club, considered one of the largest among the league's 3,800-member clubs in the U.S. and Canada, offers its members bridge instruction and games for dues of \$15 a year. Four of the league's top 10 players are active members of the Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club.

Located in the heart of Holiday Park adjacent to the gymnasium, the playing space is in a modern building erected in 1995 on City-owned property. The land is leased to the club for \$10 per year for 35 years with an option for an additional 35 years.

"We are here to stay and continue to grow as one of Fort Lauderdale's greatest deals in town," said Rhoda Schreider, manager of the Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club.

For game times, bridge classes and more, contact the Fort Lauderdale Bridge club at (954) 761-1577.



Drita Balentine, a seasonal resident of Fort Lauderdale from Germany, is a member of the Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club who frequently helps out by making sandwiches for games.





Volunteers pressure cleaned the structure, painted the exterior of the home and landscaped around the structure.

Volunteer Paint Project - A Sweeping Success For City, Community

Armed with gallons of paint, brushes, rakes, shovels and plants in their hands, City of Fort Lauderdale Community Inspection Team members and Dorsey Riverbend residents gave a local property a shiny new look.

More than 15 volunteers including city officials, building inspectors, code compliance officers, supervisors and a manager along with residents of the Dorsey Riverbend neighborhood, volunteered to spruce up a home on N.W. 11th Avenue that had fallen in disrepair.

The project was coordinated to assist the homeowner, who does not have the resources to paint the home, in bringing the property up to code. All of the labor and tools were donated for the project by community members.

"The homeowner has not been able to address code violations on the property due to physical and financial limitations," said **Lori Milano**, City of Fort Lauderdale Community Inspections Director. "After assessing the situation, our staff volunteered to help out."

In addition to painting, the team of volunteers cleaned the yard and made enhancements to the property's land-



scaping by adding a variety of low maintenance xeriscape plants, flowers and organic mulch.

Over the past year, the Community Inspections team has helped several Fort Lauderdale residents bring their properties up to code through several similar projects.

"We strive to work cooperatively with City residents to maintain and improve the appearance of neighborhoods," added Milano. "By assisting individuals who do not have the means to maintain their properties, we're providing solutions to code compliance challenges rather than simply issuing citations."



CERT Class Enrollment Open To City Residents



Be CERTain and know your role in an emergency.

The next seven-week installment of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is scheduled to begin on August 21 and run through October 2. City residents may register for the class on a first come, first serve basis beginning August 1 by calling **(954) 828-3624**. This free program, available only to 35 City of Fort Lauderdale residents per session, will take place at the Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Training Bureau, located at 2000 NE 16th Street, every Wednesday night from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

In 1996, the City implemented the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) model to improve community self-reliance and survival ability through training in the event of a large natural disaster. Basic training is provided in emergency preparedness, fire suppression, disaster survival, light search and rescue and more. For more information, contact Lieutenant **Eric Pologruto**, City of Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Training Bureau, at **(954) 828-3624**.





Firefighter Ben Johnson
descends a five-story tower.

Firefighters Perform On Target
A team of City of Fort Lauderdale Firefighters took the 2002 Combat Challenge in Deerfield Beach by storm. In a very close finish, Firefighters Jason Taddonio, Ben Johnson, James Carroll, Troy Cool and Lieutenant Rod Peeler teamed up as Fort Lauderdale's Streamlight Relay Team placing second out of approximately 25 teams. The competition is designed to highlight the unique nature of the fire service and showcase the talents and capabilities of firefighters.



Firefighter Jason Taddonio
speeds through the hydrant run.



Firefighter Troy Cool
provides encouraging support as Lt. Rod Peeler drags a 140-foot hose.

The Streamlight Relay Competition consists of teams of three to five firefighters who pass a Streamlight Survivor (flashlight) among team members through a series of exercises that simulate real-life firefighting procedures. Exercises include climbing a five-story tower with a 45-pound, 3" hose pack; hoisting a 45-pound donut-roll of large diameter hose to the top of the tower; a chopping simulation using a Keiser Force Machine; dragging a charged, 140-foot hose 75 feet and then opening the nozzle and hitting a target with the water stream; and rescuing a life-size, 175-pound mannequin and dragging it backward 100 feet. The Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Streamlight Team will compete at the Combat Challenge WCXI World Competition in Deerfield Beach, October 29 - November 2.



Firefighter James Carroll
drags a 175-pound mannequin as Lt. Peeler encourages him to finish.



Appearing from left are Battalion Chief David DiPetrillo, Lt. Sandra Damasio, Deputy Chief Rhoda Kerr and EMS Division Chief Robert Edgar.

Lieutenant Honored
During National Emergency Medical Services Week
Hollywood Medical Center recently presented Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Lieutenant Sandra Damasio an EMS Hero of the Year award during National Emergency Medical Services Week.

Fire Chief Otis J. Latin, Sr., nominated Damasio in recognition for her dedication and resourcefulness in overseeing, providing and maintaining medical equipment, supplies and contractual services that keep the Department's more than 35 fire rescue units and 13 stations operating at optimum level.

Lieutenant Damasio also plays an active role in preparing the Department for annual events including the McDonald's Air & Sea Show, which presents a challenge to the Department's emergency resources services.

Firehouse Magazine Honors Fort Lauderdale Fire Inspector
Jorge Mederos, Fort Lauderdale Fire Inspector II and Community Education Coordinator, was recently presented a 2001 Heroism and Community Service Award from *Firehouse* magazine. Mederos was recognized for coordinating numerous fire education programs within the City. Since joining the Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Department in 1996, Inspector Mederos has developed and implemented the Smoke Alarm Installation program, which to date has provided 415 free smoke alarms for single-family homes; has led the Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Explorer Post 713 (photographed at right); became the founding member of the National Fire Protection Agency's (NFPA) Risk Watch Task Force and co-chaired the fire prevention program in Broward County Public Schools.



Fire-Rescue Honors



Special Tactics Saving Lives

Traditionally known as a component of law enforcement agencies, the Special Weapons and Tactics team of the City of Fort Lauderdale performs with a unique combination of two public safety professions - Police and Fire-Rescue.

At the City of Fort Lauderdale, the 41-member S.W.A.T. team combines the expertise of 35 officers and sergeants, who have full-time responsibilities in various units and divisions of the Police Department, along with six paramedics from the Fire-Rescue Department.

"We are a very unique public safety component in that the Fire-Rescue and Police Departments have joined forces to form one core group that can provide optimum levels of service when dispatched to a crisis," said S.W.A.T. Sgt. **Jim Polan**. "Our role is to provide highly trained personnel for use in incidents where disciplined teamwork, specialized weapons, and tactical skills are needed to resolve high risk law enforcement incidents."

Team members have regular job duties serving in various divisions and squads including patrol, marine, canine, motorcycle, special investigations and fire-rescue. When they are deployed as the S.W.A.T. team, each member has a specific role in an organizational chart that includes captain, team leaders, long rifle sharp shooters, perimeter officers/arrest/entry officers, and support personnel in charge of dispatch, vehicles and logistics. The S.W.A.T. team has a variety of distinct functions. The primary responsibility is to provide reactionary support for hostage and barricaded suspect calls, snipers or other high-risk public safety threats. They also serve warrants

where high threat levels have been assessed.

S . W . A . T . members are specially equipped and highly trained to perform in these incidents by participating in ongoing monthly training sessions. Training ensures they are ready when needed.



Motorcycle Squad Rides For Charities

More than 150 motorcycle riding law enforcement officers raised in excess of \$27,000 for local charities during the Police Motorcycle Safety Competition recently.

Co-hosted by the City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department, Broward Sheriff's Office and Coral Springs Police Department, hundreds of spectators gathered in Coral Springs to see riders representing 31 different law enforcement agencies from seven different states display tactical maneuvers.

Each year, hundreds of law enforcement agencies test the skills of their motorcycle riding police officers through a series of competitions. In 1990, the City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department took the concept one step further by launching a multi-agency effort known as the Police Motorcycle Safety Competition to accomplish three goals:

- 1) To raise money for local charities;
- 2) To improve the officers ability and skill
- 3) To provide a network of resources for its officers.

Since its inception, the City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department has raised and awarded more than \$200,000 to the following local charities:

- * Concerns of Police Survivors: C.O.P.S. kids. This organization provides guidance and counseling to families who have lost a family member in the line of duty while protecting others.

- * Muscular Distrophy Association.



Preventing Crimes of Opportunity

National statistics indicate that residential burglaries rise during the summer months. The greatest number, according to FBI statistics, tend to occur in August. However, statistics also indicate that a majority of non-forced entry residential crimes are through open garage doors, windows and sliding glass doors.

Barriers To Burglaries:

TIP#1

Keep all unattended garage doors, windows, and sliding glass doors closed.

TIP#2

When your vehicle is unattended, keep all garage door openers out of view and out of your vehicle.

sporting equipment such as golf clubs and bicycles. You can make it very difficult on a burglar quite simply. Burglary is a crime of opportunity. Make their work risky and difficult, and you stand a good chance of stopping thieves before they enter.

City of Fort Lauderdale Police detectives urge citizens to close the door on crimes. Burglars spot open garage doors, sliding glass doors and even windows and remove visible items in a matter of seconds. Among the items taken have been tools, lawn tools, small electronic equipment,



Program Promotes Safer Neighborhoods Via Informed Residents

What's it really like to be a police officer in the City of Fort Lauderdale? The Community Police Academy offers citizens the opportunity to learn about the operations, issues and challenges they face every day.

The City of Fort Lauderdale Community Police Academy is designed to provide citizens with a free multi-faceted educational program covering a variety of police functions and allowing citizens to walk a mile in the officers' shoes. Open enrollment is currently taking place for the 18th Community Police Academy scheduled to run August 21 through November 20.

The popular program holds classes on Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, 1300 W. Broward Blvd. This 14-week program is offered to residents, civic and government organization members. Topics addressed include Community Policing, Officer Selection/Recruiting, Drug Enforcement, Special Investigations, Range/Firearms, Detention Tour, Communications and more. Classes are lead by various agency personnel who have expertise in their specific fields. In addition to the scheduled classes, participants may schedule an eight-hour ride along with patrol officers.

The City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department strives to protect and promote a safer community. A large part of that goal is achieved when citizens participate with the Police Department in its efforts to combat crime. Critical to the success of this shared responsibility are well-informed citizens who have an awareness of the mission, resources, practices, and services of the Police Department. The program allows citizens to play an integral part in the working police environment as well as educating them on the rules and regulations by which police officers must abide. For more information, please call (954) 828-6432. Applications can also be downloaded from the City's website (www.ci.fort-lauderdale.fl.us/police/cpa.html).

What's New?

The City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department Crime Analysis Unit produces reports that depict crime statistics in every neighborhood. The reports detail robbery, burglary, auto thefts, arrests, traffic enforcement and calls for service by homeowner groups and by police district and zone.

In an effort to provide citizens with the latest information, these statistics can now be viewed by the click of the mouse.

By logging on to <http://www.ci.fort-lauderdale.fl.us/police/contents.html>, citizens can tap into the most current data available. Questions regarding any statistics may be addressed to the Crime Analysis Unit by e-mail or by telephone at (954) 828-5714.

Police Implement One Stop Shop Concept For Illegal Drug Complaints

The City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department places a high priority on stopping illegal drug activity Citywide.

Citizens can help reduce the use and sales of illegal drugs, as well as narcotics related violent crimes, by calling the narcotics hotline (954) 828-5661.

The new hotline provides citizens with a direct line to the Narcotics Unit in

an effort to address general and specific concerns about drugs in the community. The new number, (954) 828-5661, is operated Tuesday through Saturday from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Here is how it works:

The telephone is answered by a police aide who documents the complaint, asks specific questions about the

incident or problem, and then immediately directs the information to an officer working in the community for quick response. Narcotics detectives consider every drug complaint a positive citizen contact and one step closer to preventing problems.



Free Forum Targets Teens And Club Drug Use

In an effort to deter club drug use among local youth, the City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department has joined forces with Precise Protective Research Inc. and Project Ecstasy to direct a free information class for teens.

Today's Dance Scene & Drug Problem will take place August 15, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, 1300 W. Broward Blvd.

The class addresses the club drugs mainly seen at "Rave" parties, or all-night dance parties, which continue to attract teens and young adults. MDMA (Ecstasy), GHB, Rohypnol, and Ketamine are some of the club or party drugs gaining popularity nationwide. The reason for their popularity and the effects of these drugs on the body will also be discussed.

Project Ecstasy is funded by the FDLE Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Enforcement Assistance Formula Grant Program and Commission on Substance Abuse. For more information and to register please call (954) 828-6428.

Governor Bush Recognizes State Officers Of The Year



Officer Bryant

City of Fort Lauderdale Police Officers Sam Bryant and Bob Norvis were recently honored as 2001 Officers of the Year in a special presentation officiated by Governor Jeb Bush.

Officer Sam Bryant, a 15-year veteran of the Fort Lauderdale agency, and Robert Norvis, employed with the force since 2001, were recognized for their bravery and valor in a shooting that occurred in September of 2000. Both officers were shot when they attempted to make a traffic stop on a vehicle with an expired tag.



Officer Norvis



New Products, Programs Promote Increased Household Recycling



The City of Fort Lauderdale is making it even easier to recycle. A plastic cap designed to keep paper dry and prevent littering, a new bin and a new pilot program to recycle all types of paper, will enhance recycling efficiency.

Did you know that recyclables improperly prepared or mixed with trash cannot be recycled? In an effort to increase recycling and prevent litter, the City of Fort Lauderdale has a series of efforts underway.

Cap Off Your Recycled Newspapers

To minimize waste of recycled newspaper that is damaged by moisture, the City of Fort Lauderdale is offering residents a free plastic cap. The cap fits effortlessly around the top of the newspaper recycling bin. The plastic cap keeps moisture from damaging the newspaper as well as prevent the newspaper from blowing out of the bin on high windy days. Please contact Casey Eckels, Recycling Coordinator, at (954) 828-5577.

Roll Those Bins To the Curb

A new tool is now available that makes taking recycling bins to the curb quicker and easier. With the aid of a new steel frame cart, citizens can stack the bins and corrugated cardboard onto the cart and easily wheel them collectively for placement on the curb. Once at the curb, simply remove the bins from the cart, place them correctly on the curb and take the cart back to your home. The cost of the cart is \$25 and may be ordered by contacting Casey Eckels at (954) 828-5577.

New Pilot Program To Recycle More Than Newspaper

The City's collection of mixed paper recyclables will begin by way of a pilot program starting this fall. A total of 4,000 homes in four sections of the City that include all homes in Imperial Point, portions of Lauderdale Manors, South Middle River and Sunset. The program will be phased to full implementation over the next two years. Under the mixed paper program, residents will be able to recycle magazines, catalogs, cereal and other similar types of boxes, computer and office paper, unwanted mail, all other clean and dry paper, and unlimited sizes of corrugated cardboard. Newspapers, inserts and telephone books are to be kept separately in a bin or brown bag. Residents will be notified by way of a doorhanger of their participation approximately one month prior to their start date. A green bin for mixed-paper recycling will be delivered one to two weeks prior to the recycling start date. For more information regarding the mixed paper recycling pilot program, contact Casey Eckels at (954) 828-5577.

Magazine, Catalogue School Winners Emerge

How much can you recycle? Earlier this summer, 11 public and private schools recycled 138.5 tons of magazines and catalogues saving the City more than \$11,000 in disposal fees. In return, the City of Fort Lauderdale rewarded the schools with more than \$3,100 in incentive money for their schools. Participating schools received monetary awards based on the tons of magazines and catalogues collected for recycling. Bayview Elementary, Croissant Park Elementary and Bennett Elementary schools emerged as the top three schools recycling 18, 16 and 14 tons of materials respectively. The three schools will be recognized at the 6 p.m., September 17 Commission meeting in City Hall.



Photos appearing from top to bottom:

1. Today the New River Inn is home to the Old Fort Lauderdale Museum of History.

2. Children receive a tour of the 1899 replica School House.

3. A glimpse of the King-Cromartie House, a museum of local pioneer lifestyles.

4. The Hoch Heritage Center boasts a collection of 250,000 photographic images.

Experience A Bit Of Old Fort Lauderdale

It is unlike any other village ever experienced. One glance at the structures that make up the Old Fort Lauderdale Village & Museum offers visitors a dynamic visual and almost surreal account of the City's story of growth and development presented by the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society.

An impressive collection of Broward County's most historically significant structures are nestled on Second Avenue along historic Riverwalk. Making up the unique village are the New River Inn (1905); the Hoch Heritage Center; the Philemon Bryan House (1905); the King-Cromartie House (1907) on Southwest Second (Moffatt) Avenue and a replica of Fort Lauderdale's 1899 School House.

The charming New River Inn instantly brings visitors back to the early 1900s when the hotel hosted such famous guests as Henry Flagler, Governor Broward and Henry Ford. Recorded as the first Fort Lauderdale building to be added to the National Register of Historic Places, the hotel's proximity to the railroad made it a natural choice for these celebrities. Today it is being transformed into a popular backdrop for private parties, weddings and other elegant events reminiscent of days gone by. Amidst special events, the building's primary function is to serve as home to the Old Fort Lauderdale Museum of History, which provides the City's most comprehensive tour of historical artifacts and events. For more information or to schedule a special event, please contact **Joan Mikus at 463-4431, extension 15**.

For children, the replica 1899 School House offers teachers and parents a great opportunity for school groups to participate in the "History Adventure" educational programs. Each on-site program is centered on the 1899 replica School House where students discover turn-of-the-century life through role-play and a history hunt in the museum. All programs are written to conform to the Florida Department of Education's Sunshine Standards with lessons structured according to the National Trust for Historic Preservation guidelines providing many FCAT-compliant activities. "A Teacher's Guide" brochure with the current program descriptions and costs is available. For more information contact the Education Department at **(954) 463-4431**.

The King-Cromartie house, a renovated two-story 1907 home, is now operated as a historic house museum. The King-Cromartie House of the Old Fort Lauderdale complex is open for guided tours and is included in the admission to the Museum of History. Built before Broward County was incorporated, the house depicts the South Florida pioneer lifestyle shortly after the arrival of Henry Flagler's FEC railway in Fort Lauderdale.

The Hoch Heritage Center, honoring Dr. Clifford Hoch for his generous contributions to the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, offers history buffs an impressive collection of archives. Displays include a photographic collection of 250,000 Broward County historical images, manuscripts, and books on the history and natural history of Florida as well as reference volumes on such topics as preservation and collections. Local history files feature newspaper clippings, brochures, periodicals, collections of maps, plats, atlases, blueprints and engineering drawings. Visitors interested in purchasing historic prints can choose from more than 20,000 available copy negatives for a nominal fee. For more information, call the Historical Society's Research Department at **(954) 463-4431, ext. 11**.



Around Town

Summer Sports Camp

Don't miss the final session of the **2002 O'Brien Summer Sports Camp** on August 19-23. Under the direction of 2000 U.S. Olympic Coach Tim O'Brien and staff, this recreational camp features a variety of water and beach activities for youth ranging 5 to 12 years of age. Participants take part in springboard and platform jumping and diving, snorkeling, volleyball, soccer, flag football, kickball, arts and crafts in groups of their own age. All staff on site are safety certified. The August 19-23 session takes place Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Arrangements for early drop-off and late pick-up schedules can be made. Camp fee is \$160 for the week, in addition to a \$50 registration fee. Discounts are available for those who register more than one child in a session. To register, please contact Tim O'Brien at (954) 562-4115. Campers must be comfortable in water depths that exceed his or her height. If your child is not comfortable, call the Fort Lauderdale Swim Team offices at (954) 764-4822 to sign up for swim lessons.



Stay Fit & Cool With An Aquatic Workout

Swimmercize is designed to improve muscle tone, heart and lung capacity, and flexibility through a series of water exercises. The City of Fort Lauderdale Swimming Hall of Fame Aquatic Complex, Fort Lauderdale High School Pool and Sunrise Middle School Pool are the ideal sites to get you started, even if you are a non-swimmer. Fees are \$3 per class or \$25 for a 10 class pass. Classes at the Hall of Fame Aquatic Complex, 501 Seabreeze Blvd., are held Sunday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., and 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Classes at Fort Lauderdale High School, 1600 N.E. 4th Ave., are held on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to noon. Classes at Sunrise Middle School Pool, 1750 NE 14th St, are held on Saturdays, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, contact the Swimming Hall of Fame Aquatic Complex at (954) 828-4580; Fort Lauderdale High School Pool at (954) 828-5401; and Sunrise Middle School Pool at (954) 712-2018.



Downtown Live!

is Fort Lauderdale's newest after-work hot spot that will keep you out of rush hour on Wednesday nights. Enjoy chart-topping music performed by the hottest local bands, local artist works, movies, sports, dance lessons and a host of other activities from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. along SW 2nd Street between SW 2nd and 3rd Avenues. Area restaurants and bars will feature weekly specials and offer their finest food and hospitality. For more information about Downtown Live, please call the Parks and Recreation Festivals and Events Office at (954) 828-6620 or visit Fort Lauderdale Online (www.ci.fort-lauderdale.fl.us/festivals/).

Las Olas Art Fair Weekend

Las Olas Boulevard will be transformed into an open air art gallery August 31 through September 1. More than 300 artists will showcase life-size sculptures, landscape photography, striking oil paintings, uniquely crafted jewelry, pottery and so much more. Show times are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and admission is free. For more information, call (954) 763-2235.

Free Movies Under the Moonlight

Bring your lawn chairs, picnic baskets and blankets to the



DDA Plaza/Bubier Park for a movie under the stars on the fourth Saturday of each month from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Maroone Moonlight Musicals presents Monty Python & the Holy Grail on August 24 followed by The Mask of Zorro on September 28. Plan on attending this monthly movie event, presented by the Fort Lauderdale International

Film Festival, free from 8 pm - 10 pm. For more information, call (954) 760-9898.

Join the Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club

Love to play cards? Then head for Holiday Park and start dealing. Masterpoint duplicate games are held every day at 12:30 and Sundays at 1 p.m. Non-life masterpoint duplicate games are held Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 12:30 p.m. and Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Open evening games are held at 5:30 p.m. on Sundays, and 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Saturdays. All levels of duplicate bridge lessons are also available. For more information on lessons or games, please call (954) 761-1577.

Visit Fort Lauderdale Online at www.ci.fort-lauderdale.fl.us

Featured Upcoming Performances:

August 7

Miguel Cruz & Tropical Dream (Salsa)

August 14

Lucky Duck (Rock) will play from 5:30 - 7 p.m.

**Fourth Dimension (Reggae/Calypso)
will play from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.**

August 21

**Papa Mali (Swamp, Funk), and don't miss Bad
Movie Night at the Old Fort Lauderdale Museum of
History at the New River Inn beginning at 7 p.m. and
featuring "Royal Wedding"**

August 28

Ruffhouse (Reggae)

Ample parking is available at the City Parking
Garage at SE 1st Avenue and SE 2nd Street and the
Performing Arts Center Garage at SW 5th Avenue
and SW 2nd Street for a fee. Las Olas Park Place,
along with the County Garage, will offer a \$5 flat
rate for Wednesday nights.



SunTrust Jazz Brunch

Downtown, the Riverwalk and New River come alive the first Sunday of every month as the SunTrust Jazz Brunch fills the air with all types of Jazz music performed on six stages along the New River from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jazz Brunch is now in its 11th year and is one of the most popular monthly events in Broward County. Picnic baskets, blankets, chairs and dogs are welcome to the monthly fest. For more information call the SunTrust Jazz Brunch hotline at (954) 828-5985 or visit the City's web site (www.ci.fort-lauderdale.fl.us). Don't miss these upcoming performances:

September 1: *Flight;*
Just Jazz; *Marci Haus;*
Karen Schoenhals;
Heartbeat Jazz Quintet.

October 6: *Dana Paul;*
Cezar Santana; *Beatriz*
Malnic; *Amereida;*
Irresistibles Jazz Quartet.



Dana Paul

Recycle Corps to Meet In September

The next City of Fort Lauderdale Recycle Corps meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 16 at 7 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers on the 8th floor of City Hall, 100 N. Andrews Ave. Topics to be discussed include results of the magazine drive, summer event plans, and more. Parking is available in the City Hall parking garage on the east side of the building. For more information, contact Casey Eckels, City of Fort Lauderdale Recycling Coordinator at (954) 828-5577.

Neighborhood Getaway

The 6th Annual Florida Neighborhoods Conference 2002 is scheduled for September 6-7, 2002 in the City of Tampa. City of Fort Lauderdale residents interested in attending are asked to work with City staff in coordinating group transportation as part of the community experience in attending the annual weekend event. The conference is a networking opportunity for citizens with two days of workshops and events to promote information exchange. In 2000, Fort Lauderdale hosted the event to spotlight our neighborhoods and exchange strategies to strengthen neighborhoods. A similar curriculum is planned for the 2002 conference including more than 30 workshop sessions. Ten mobile workshops will highlight historic neighborhoods, arts initiatives, public-private partnerships, revitalizing neighborhoods and more. Plans are currently underway for charter buses to transport conference attendees from our area (Fort Lauderdale/Broward County) to the conference. A specific schedule for the departure and return will be available as conference dates approach. The cost for bus transportation will be a nominal amount (\$5 to \$10 per person) if reserved in advance. For a copy of the conference schedule, a registration form, or to reserve your space on a charter bus, please contact Leslie Carhart at the City of Fort Lauderdale by phone (954) 828-8962; Fax: (954) 762-8974, or email LeslieC@ci.fort-lauderdale.fl.us.



Big Toy Extravaganza For Kids Of All Ages

Children of all ages will enjoy this unique event where the rule of thumb is "Hands On, Everyone on Board"! The Big Toys are coming for two days, October 12 and 13, to the Fort Lauderdale Festival Site, 1201 NW 55th Street, where everyone can experience first hand how those big trucks and toys really work. Every type of toy and truck imaginable will be there to view, climb and photograph. Artists will display their works, music will fill the air, and plenty of beverages and food will be available over the two days. Children will have plenty

to do after experiencing the toys and trucks. Games and activities are planned throughout the weekend. For additional information, call the special events hotline at (954) 828-6500.



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